In 1958 business interests in the state of California sponsored Proposition 18, an amendment to the state’s constitution that would have outlawed the union shop and made California a right-to-work state. Proponents of the Proposition attempted to convince African American voters to support it, arguing that the open shop could prevent racial discrimination by labor unions. This tactic was unsuccessful. Proposition 18 was defeated, and African Americans voted against it in overwhelming numbers. Nonetheless, the campaign for Proposition 18 revealed rifts in the alliance between African-Americans and the labor movement. As the Republican Party moved to the right during the 1960s, it exploited these rifts, and the election of 1958 came to look not like a defeat of the right, but instead, as its first step in a new direction.